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**FIRST**  
COMICS  
JUNE 60 1990  
\$1.95 \$2.45  
CANADA

MIKE BARON • STEVE BUTLER • RANDY CLARK

# BADGER





# BADGER™

CREATED BY MIKE BARON

A self-styled crime fighter who rides the highways and by-ways of America, the **Badger** metes out bloody justice to jaywalkers, ticket scalpers, indifferent teenaged fast-food clerks — In fact, *any-damn-body he feels like because he's CRAZY!*

Badger is just one side of **Norbert Sykes**, a Vietnam veteran with a personality problem: it's split seven ways. Nevertheless, Norbert almost always finds himself in a Badger state of mind.

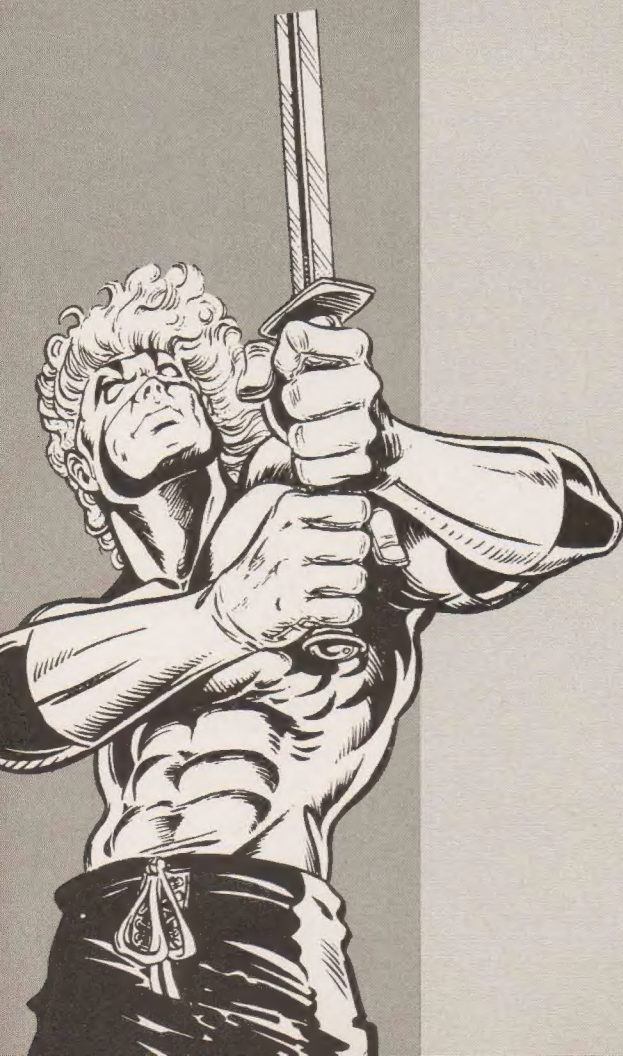
Badger is a master of Shorin-ryu and dozens of other obscure, esoteric, arcane, not to mention abstruse martial arts. He can also talk to the animals — just like Dr. Doolittle. Only with better results.

Badger lives with **Ham the Weather Wizard** in a castle south of Barneveld, Wisconsin. Ham and Badger met while both were inmates at a state mental hospital. Through cunning and chicanery, Ham has amassed a considerable fortune.

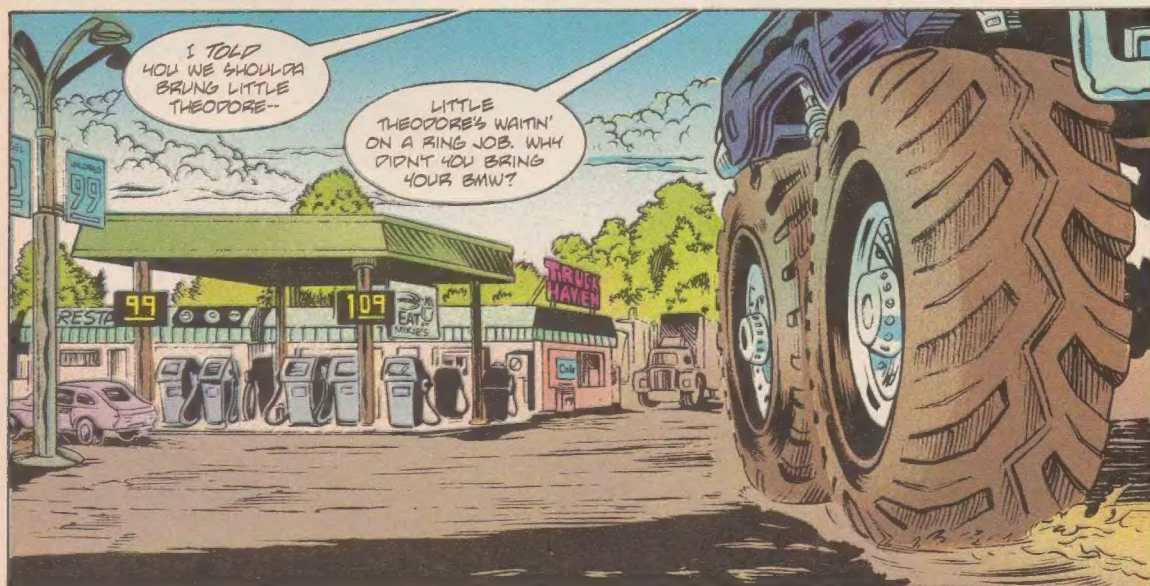
Badger calls everyone Larry.

**Last Issue:** Badger was hired to clean up the streets of Manhattan, but was led astray into the world of high fashion. His employer, **Bagwhan Sammy**, didn't appreciate the karmic ramifications, and sent a number of thugs and true-believers to batter the Badger. Luckily, the heroes of New York arrived to lend a helping hand, fireball, fist, chainsaw, etc.

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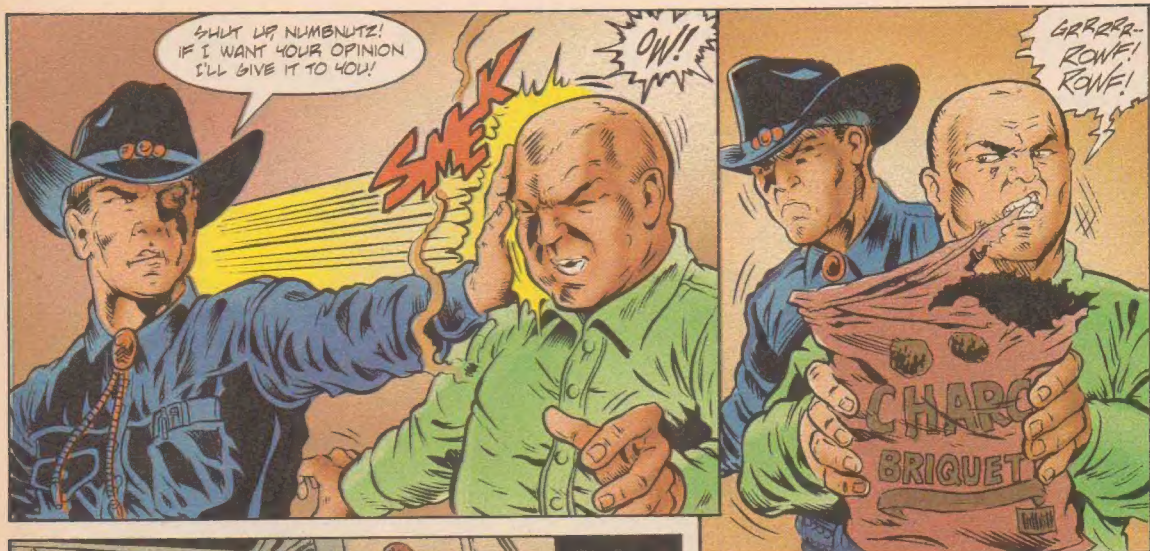
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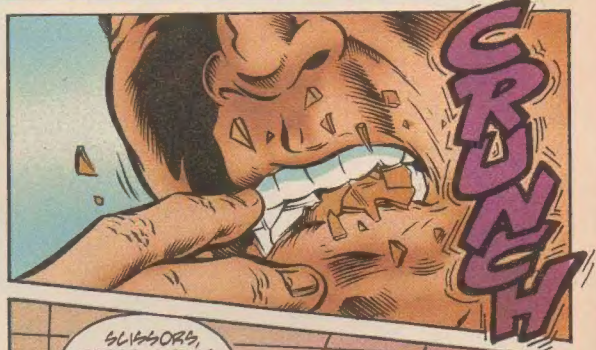




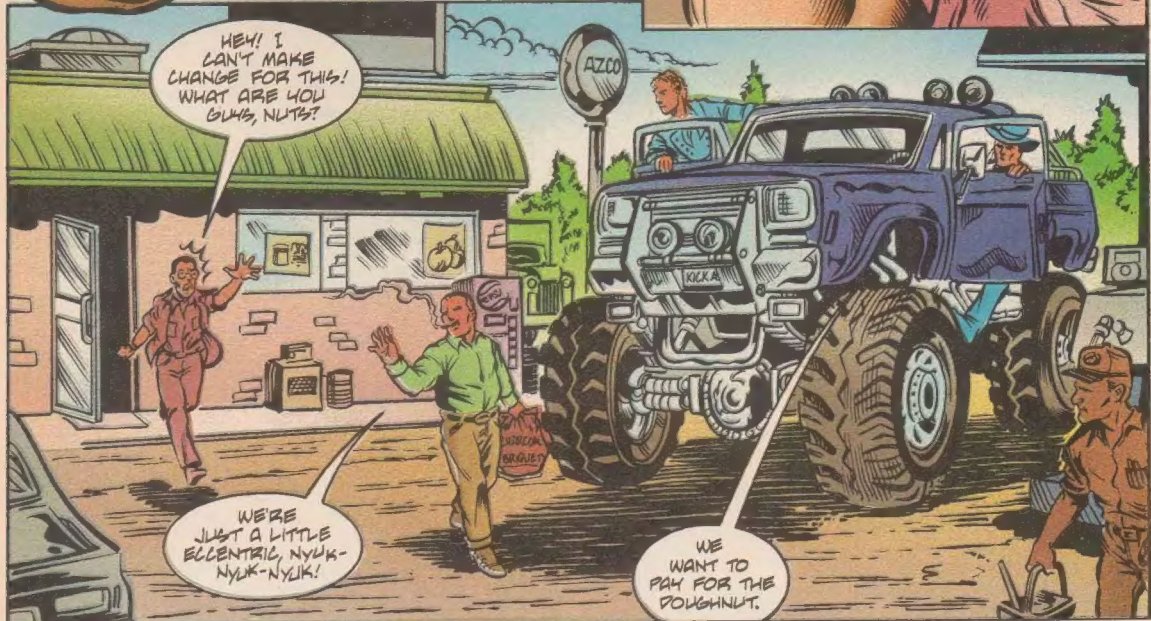
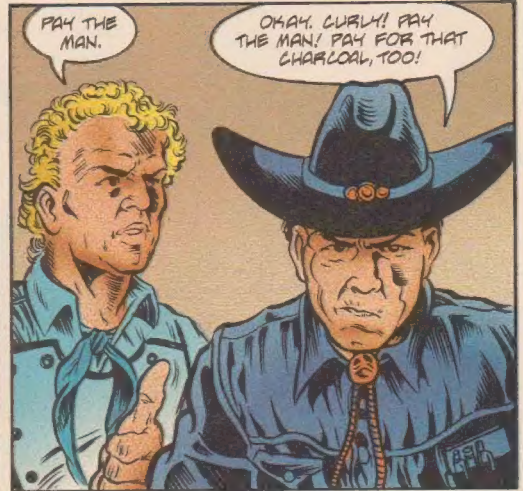




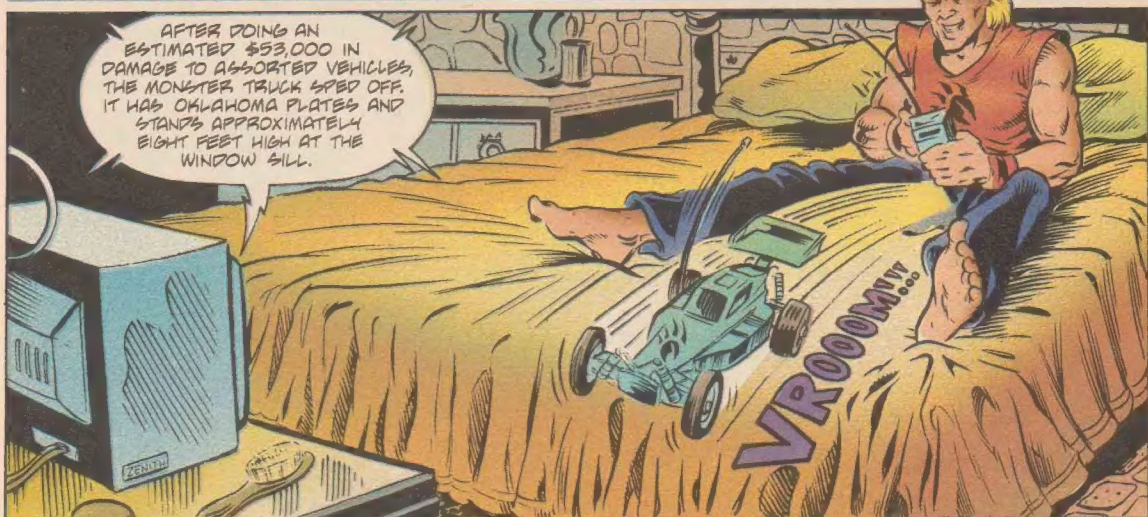
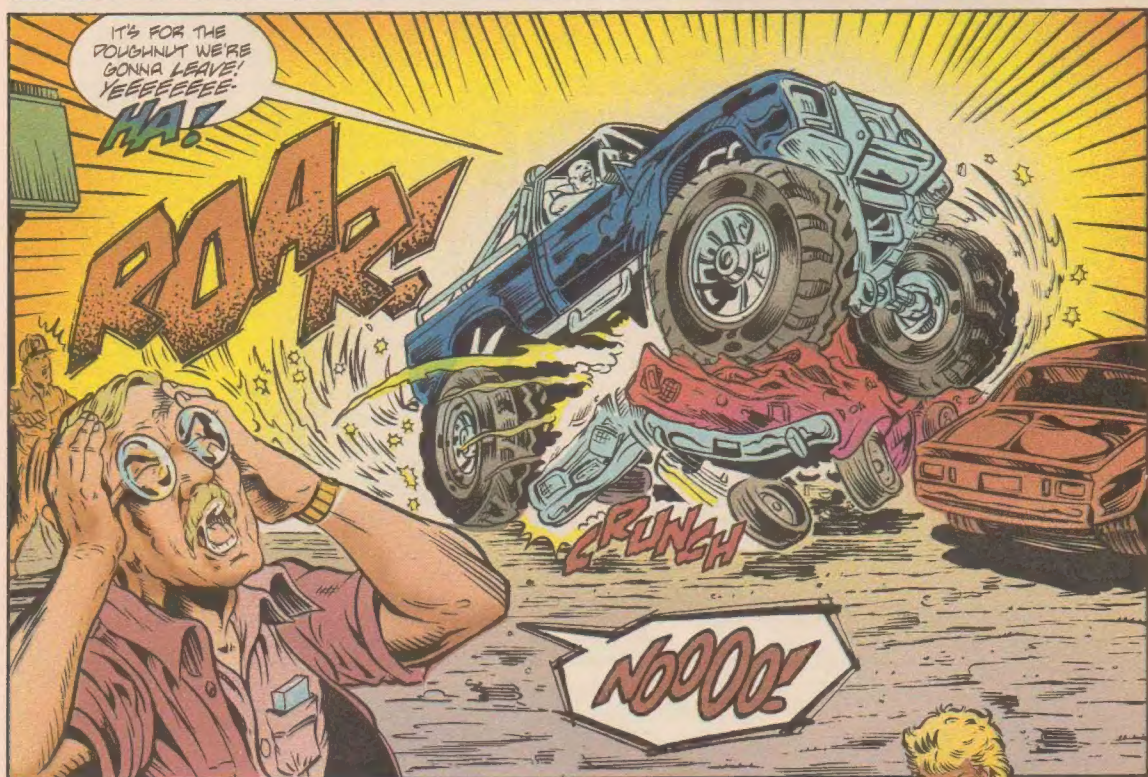
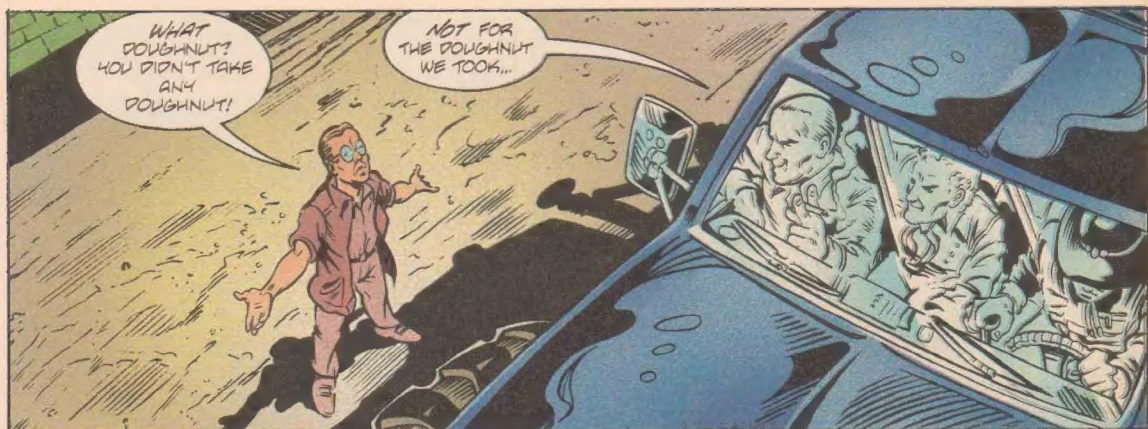




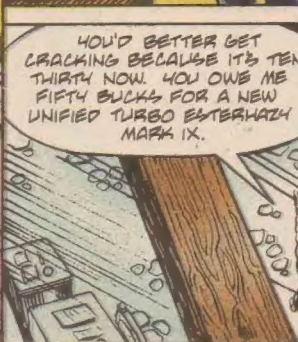
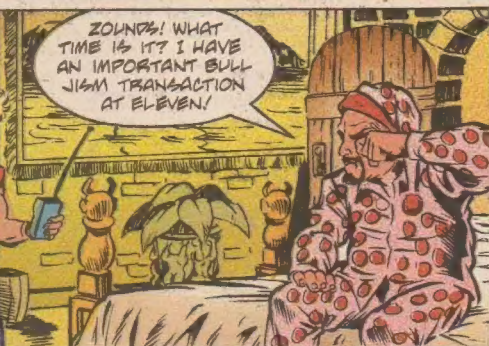
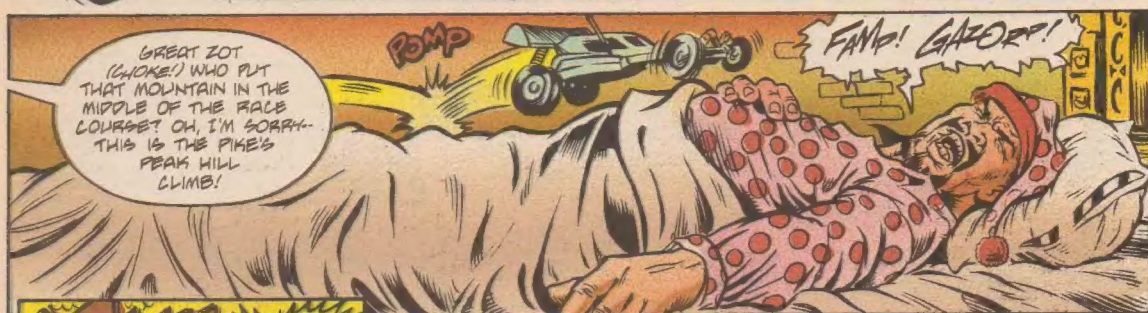
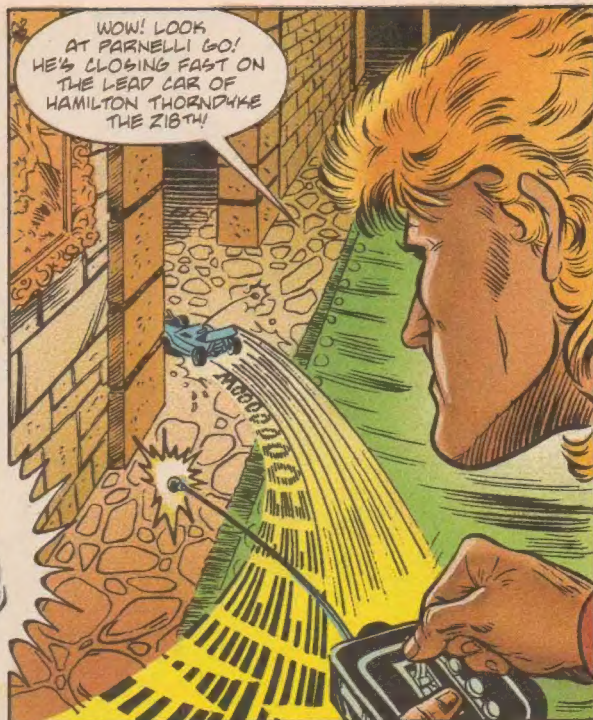
















THE DEVIL YOU DON'T!  
YOU MALICIOUSLY KILLED  
PARNELLI SCHWARTZBAUM! AND  
I DIDN'T USE YOUR GUT FOR THE  
STRAIGHT, I USED IT FOR THE  
MILL CLIMB!

YOUR STOMACH  
COULD DO STUNT WORK  
FOR AVER'S ROCK! FIFTY  
LLAMS--PAY UP!

I'LL  
FLIP YOU  
FOR IT.



COME ON,  
FAT MAN! I'LL FLIP  
YOU DOWN THE  
STAIRS!

BEEZEEBUS,  
YOU'RE TEDIOUS! NO.  
I PROPOSE A SIMPLE  
GAME OF SCISSORS, PAPER,  
STONE--DOUBLE OR NOTHING.  
WHAT DO YOU SAY,  
BADGER? ARE YOU A  
SPORTING MAN?



LOME, LOME  
BADGER, DO YOU  
SEEK RECOMPENSE  
OR NOT?



AND SO...

PAPER  
COVERS STONE!  
THAT'S A HUNDRED  
DOLLARS YOU  
OWE ME.

LET'S  
GO THREE  
OUT OF  
FIVE!



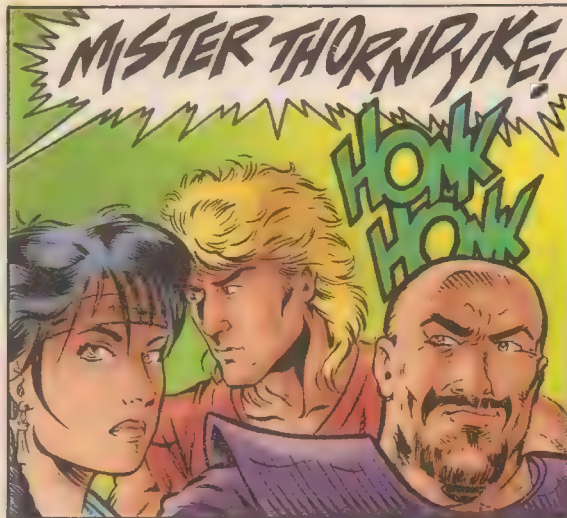
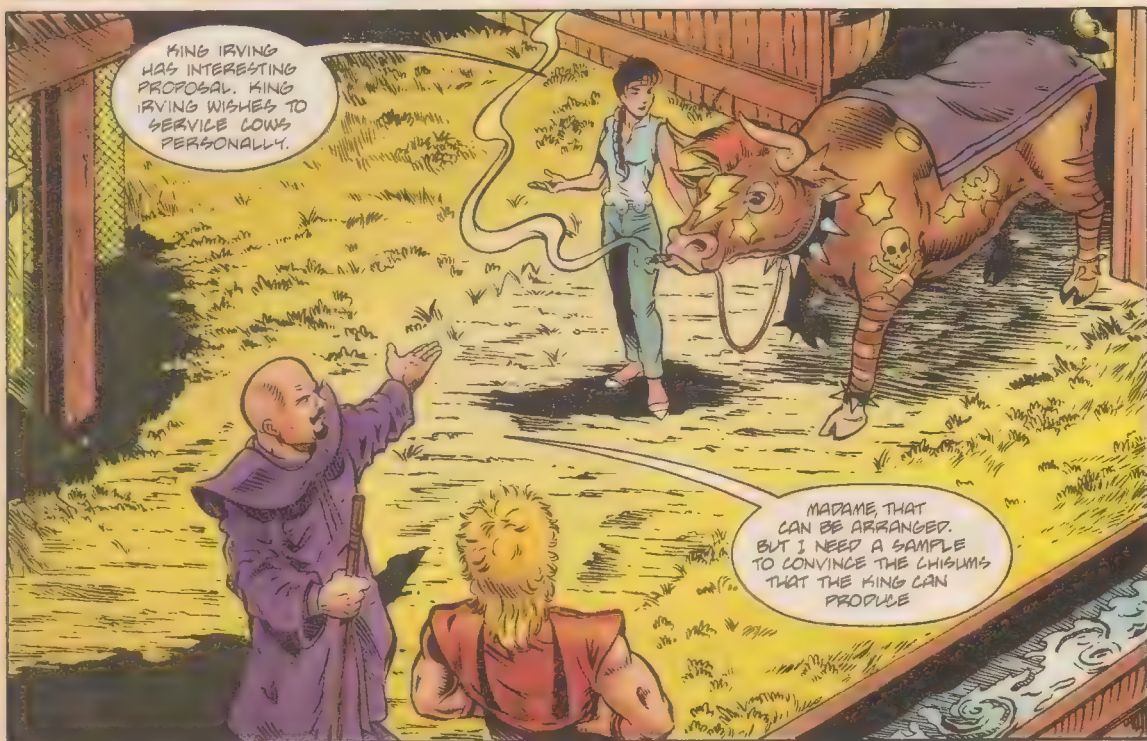
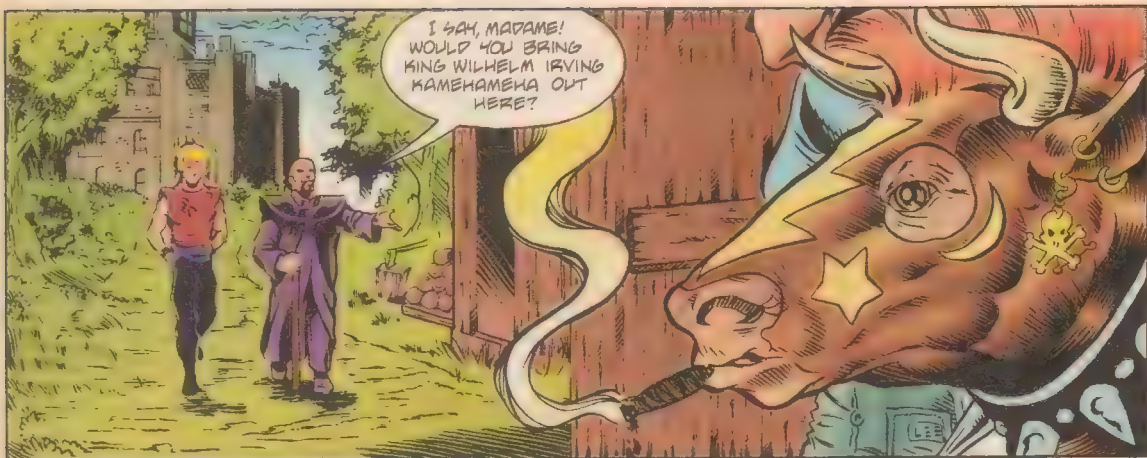
NAH, SIR.  
LOME--WE MUST  
PREPARE FOR THE CHISLM  
BROTHERS, BIG-TIME  
CATTLE BREEDERS  
FROM OKLAHOMA.

SO  
WHAT?  
YOU DON'T  
HAVE ANY  
CATTLE.

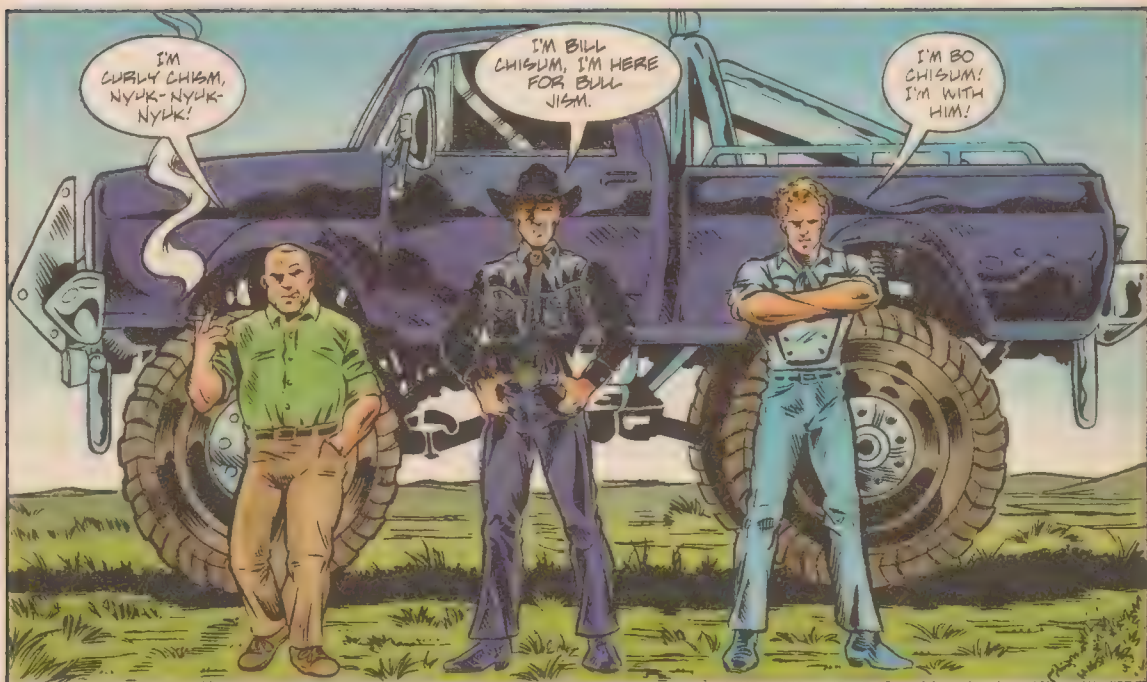


YOU ARE  
MISTAKEN! PLEASE  
ACCOMPANY ME TO  
THE BARN.

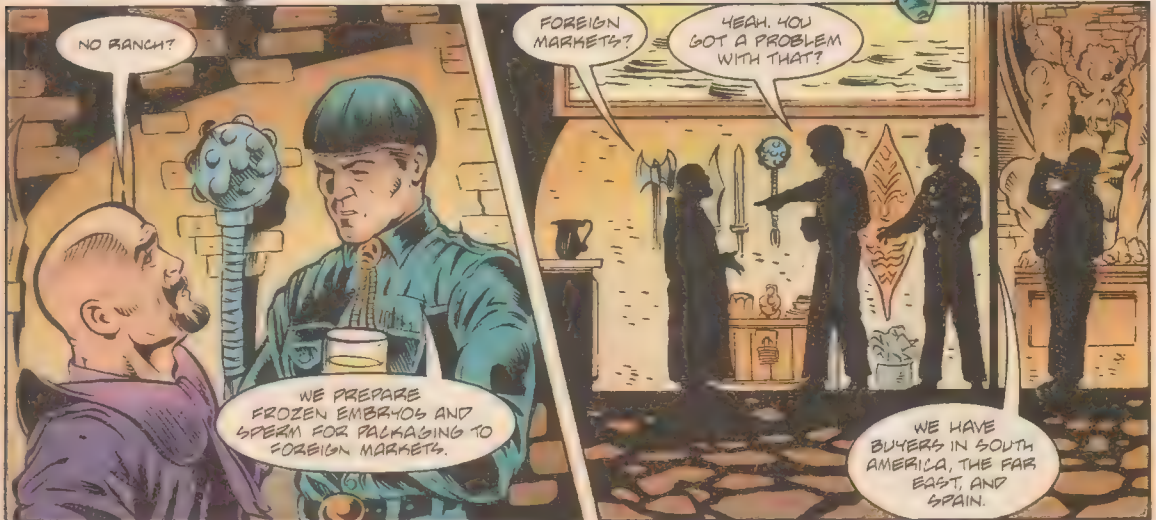
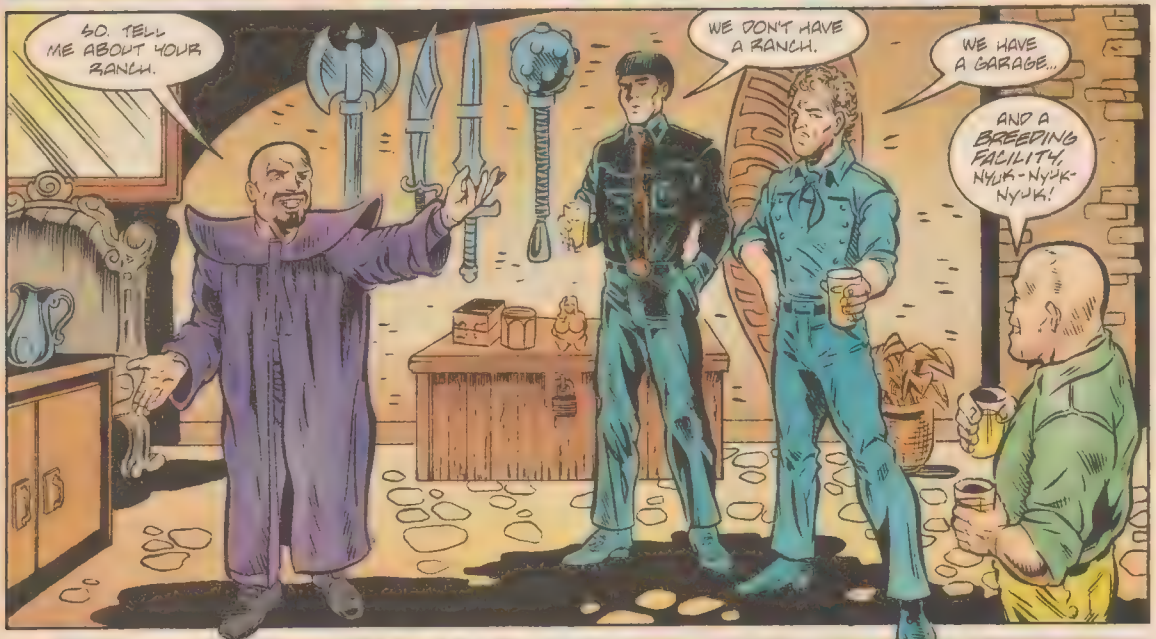
















## DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR

One afternoon at lunch:  
"Guys, we are in danger of becoming media darlings," I said.  
The guys just sorta stared at me.  
"Have you seen our reviews, lately?"  
I heard someone mumble something about stress and my recent vacation. How could I lose it so quickly?

"But guys, *Amazing Heroes* recently

**I** heard someone mumble something about stress and my recent vacation. How could I lose it so quickly?

said about *Dreadstar*: 'That fella with two first names, Peter David, is doing a fine job delivering strong, interesting stories.... [Medina's] got the imagination it takes to draw [*Dreadstar*] and [his] world right.... Exceptional science fiction comics aren't easy to come by, but you [Vanth] and your company manage to deliver the goods with every issue.' I almost spilled my Coke.

They replied with the old line: The only good reviews are good sales.

"That issue flew off the shelves around here," I blustered. "And what about *Demon Knight*? Huh? *Amazing Heroes* said: 'In the more action-packed sequences [Flint] Henry's lines are bold and slashing. In the romantic sequences, he lays down a finely lined, exquisite artwork reminiscent of Barry Windsor-Smith at his best.... This is heady stuff indeed!'"

They shook their heads, and asked why I cared. I wasn't the editor on those books. I stared icily. My hands trembled. "I'm not the editor on *Classics Illustrated* either, and look what's happening there."

"*Comics Buyers Guide* just rated all four issues in the initial release — 'A-plus.' *Amazing Heroes* did an eight-page spread, and *Comics Scene* did a four-color preview. It just proves my point. The media loves us.

"Then, ABC called us up and put *Classics Illustrated* on the ABC evening news! The nation was watching as pressmen at Danner stacked up newly printed covers of *The Raven*. Rick Obadiah talked about our country's illiteracy problem. Gahan Wilson told everyone just how excited he was to be adapting Poe for a new generation!" My hands were tapping on the table. The guys began to exchange meaningful glances.

"And the *People*, *Family Circle*, *Seventeen*, *USA Today*, *Magazine & Bookseller*, and *Publisher's Weekly* articles didn't hurt. And then in January, Rick and Gahan were on National Public Radio, and on February 1st, Rick was on 'Good Morning America!' yow!!

"National press, guys. National press, heh, heh." I stood, arms held high.

"Alex, just think, as comics' greatest art director, you could parlay this into a public television how-to-draw-comics seminar reaching lots and lots of countries, bringing the joyful art of panelology to thousands of impoverished and needy children everywhere.

"Mike, you could expand your television career from the short shot of the back of your head on the ABC news to

checking proofs on all sort of shows. Even ABC's *Anything But Love*, for instance. My lord man, you could work with Jamie Lee Curtis!"

It was then I started to notice that they were slowly closing in on me, but it was far too late for me to stop.

"And Rich Markow, with all the packages you handle... well, you could do Federal Express commercials! Yeah, that's it."

Alex closed the conference room door, and Kurt, Wade, and Mike positioned themselves around me.

"And Wade, Wade Roberts, you can give up *Classics* and have a B-movie review show on cable TV."

They tell me that by then I was waving my hands around frenetically.

"And I, well I could have a late-night radio call-in show. I always wanted to cut someone off in mid-rant..."

It was then that they jumped me.

I still say I put up a mighty struggle, while they all insist it only took a few scant moments.

Obviously the strain has become too much, so I'm forced to have Anina Bennett write next month's *First Person Singular*. She'll tell you all about Wendy Pini's new *Beauty and the Beast*, graphic novel, *Night of Beauty*. I'll be resting. Bye now.

— Bob Garcia

## FIRST IN FEBRUARY

**1** *Crimjack* #71: Flint Henry's back. Part one of "Who Killed Jason Nines?" By John Ostrander, Flint Henry, and Bruce Patterson. Plus the second installment of *Youngblood*, the story of John Gaunt's formative years. By Ostrander, Kim Yale, and Steve Pugh.

**1** *Nexus* #69: Stan starts fulfilling his obligation to the Merk, and doesn't care who stands in his way. By Mike Baron, Mark Heike, and Jeff Albrecht.

**1** *Nexus Legends* #14: Horatio has hit bottom and even his fusion-kasting powers seem to have deserted him. By Mike Baron, Steve Rude, and Eric Shanower. Cover by Les Dorscheid.

**1** *Badger* #60: Badger's new regular artist premieres this issue, with a tale of kung-fu action and historicisms. By Mike Baron and Steve Butler.

**1** *Dreadstar* #55: Teuton turns to Palafox's side, and Vanth and Company are on the run. By Peter David, Angel Medina, and Bob Dvorak. Plus the first chapter of the *Iron Angel* backup by Peter David, John Calimee, and Bob Dvorak.

**1** *Whisper* #37: The final issue of *Whisper*, as Diane faces off with Carnicero. By Steven Grant and Vince Giarrano.

**1** *Mike Grell's Sable* #4: Re-presenting *Jon Sable, Freelance* #4, by Mike Grell. New cover by Tony Akins.

**1** *Classics Illustrated* #5: Hamlet. William Shakespeare's classic play, adapted by Steven Grant and illustrated by Tom Mandrake.

**1** *Classics Illustrated* #6: The Scarlet Letter. Nathaniel Hawthorne's tale of sin and ostracism adapted by P. Craig Russell and illustrated by Jill Thompson.

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"DREADSTAR is easily the book I most  
look forward to seeing each month...  
ANGEL MEDINA... is one of the top three  
artists I have ever worked with."

— PETER DAVID



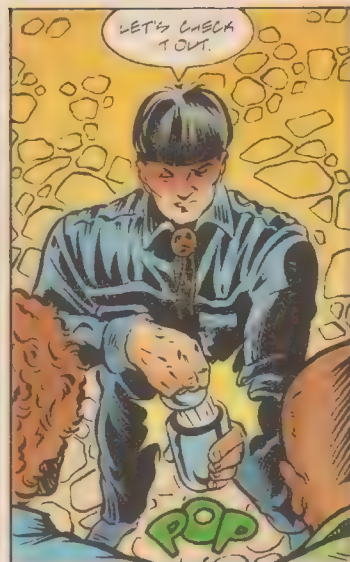
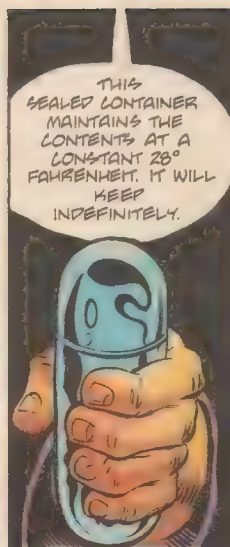
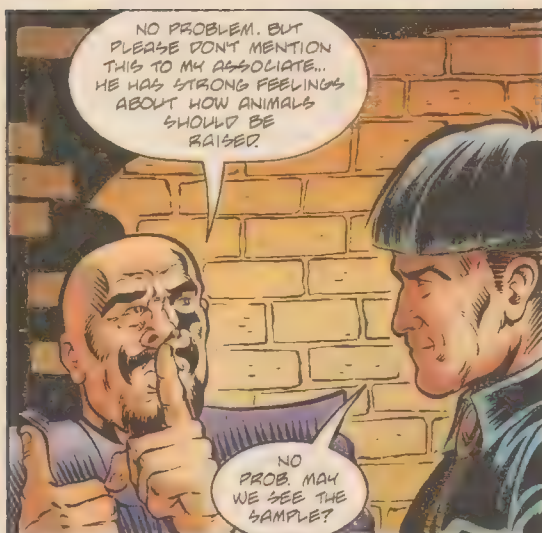
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# DREADSTAR

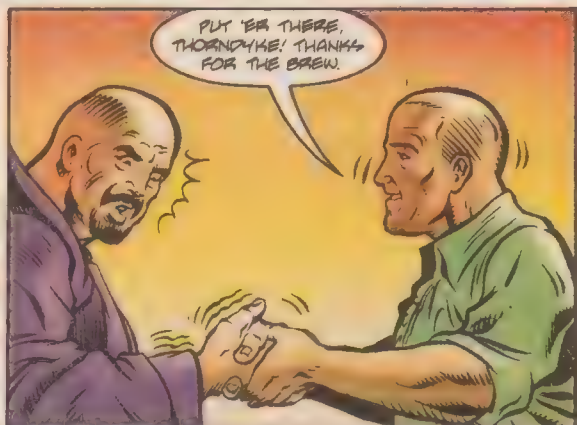
PETER DAVID • ANGEL MEDINA • BOB DVORAK

#55 On sale now from **FIRST COMICS**





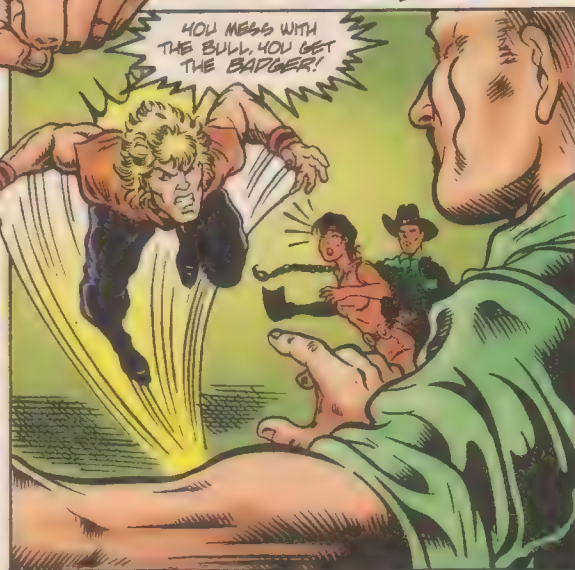




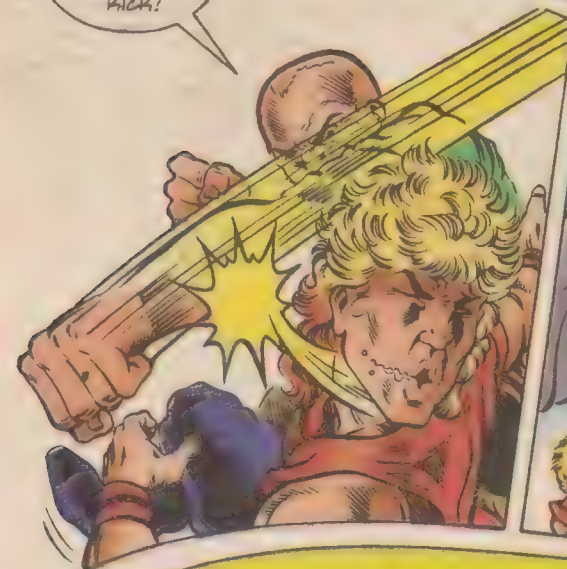




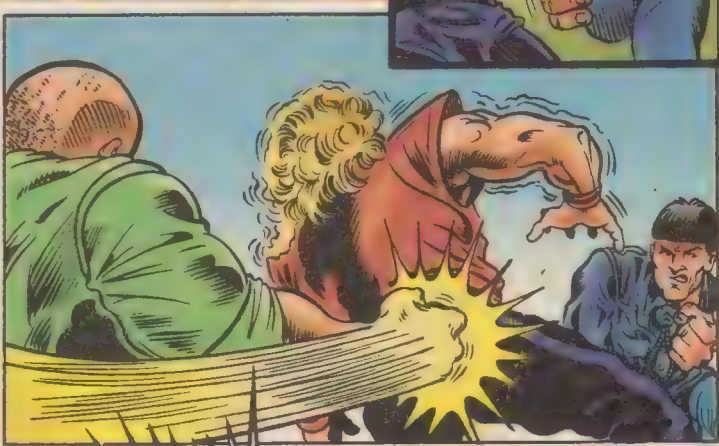
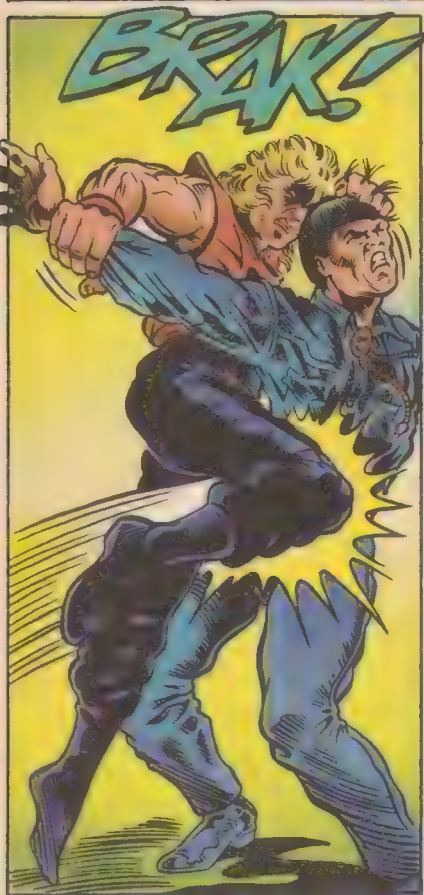
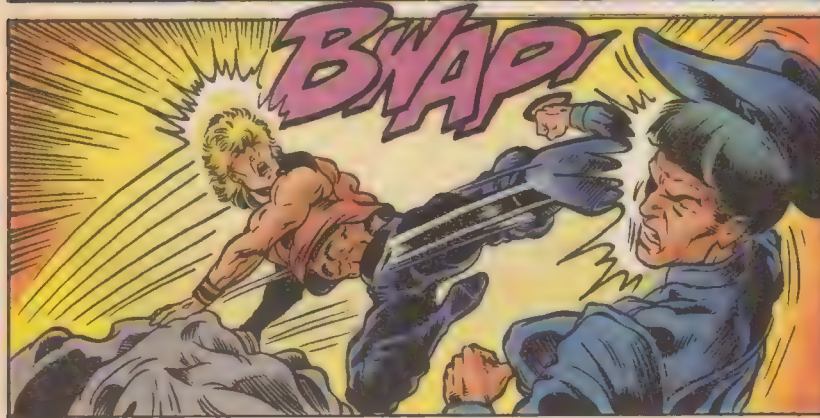
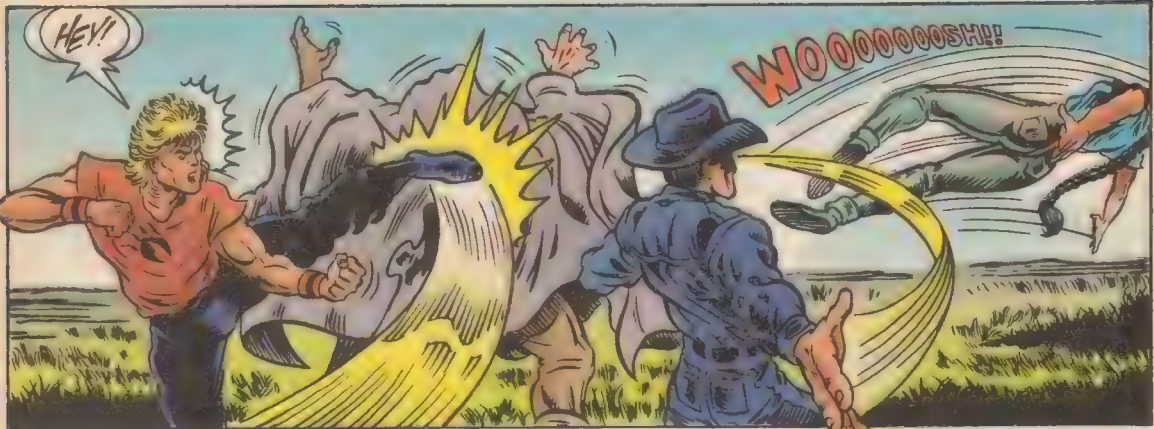














# Beauty and the Beast

BOOK II

## Night of Beauty

Written and illustrated by Wendy Pini.

Vincent and Catherine  
have stood side by side  
against every kind of  
danger...or so  
they thought.



Now, their love must face  
the ultimate test — for  
sometimes, it is only by  
braving a sea of darkness  
that one can find the  
brightest light.

*A tale of love and loss.*

*Coming in March from First Publishing.*



# Baron and Butler

Together again for the first time!

Introducing new penciller

Steven Butler!

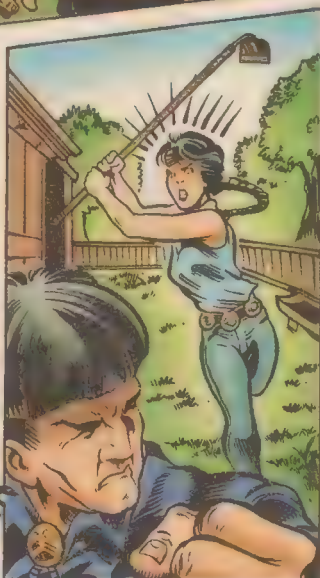
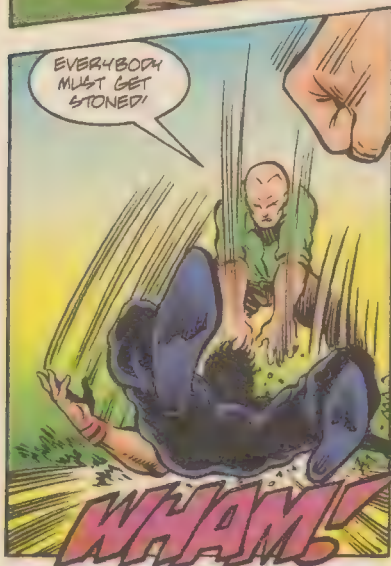


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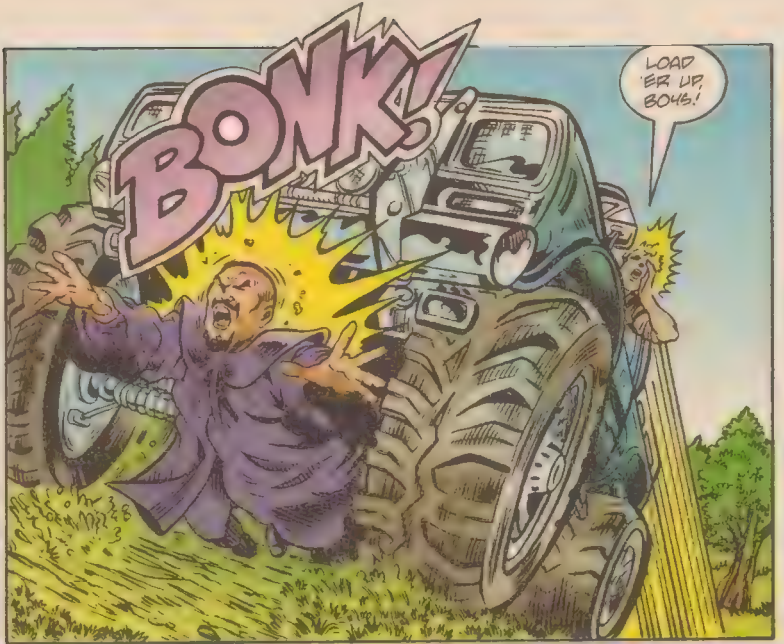
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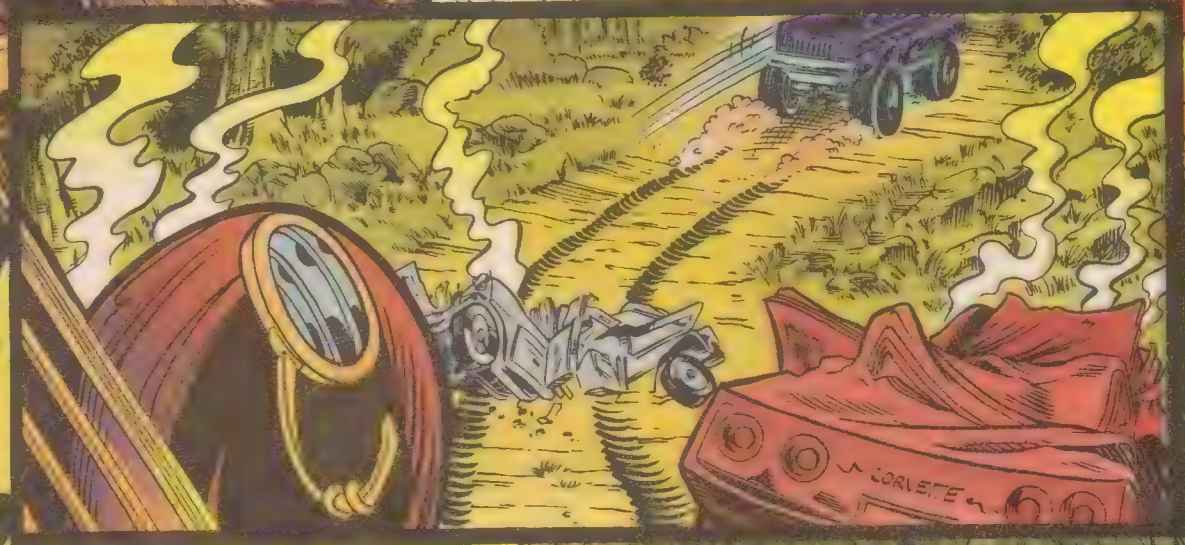




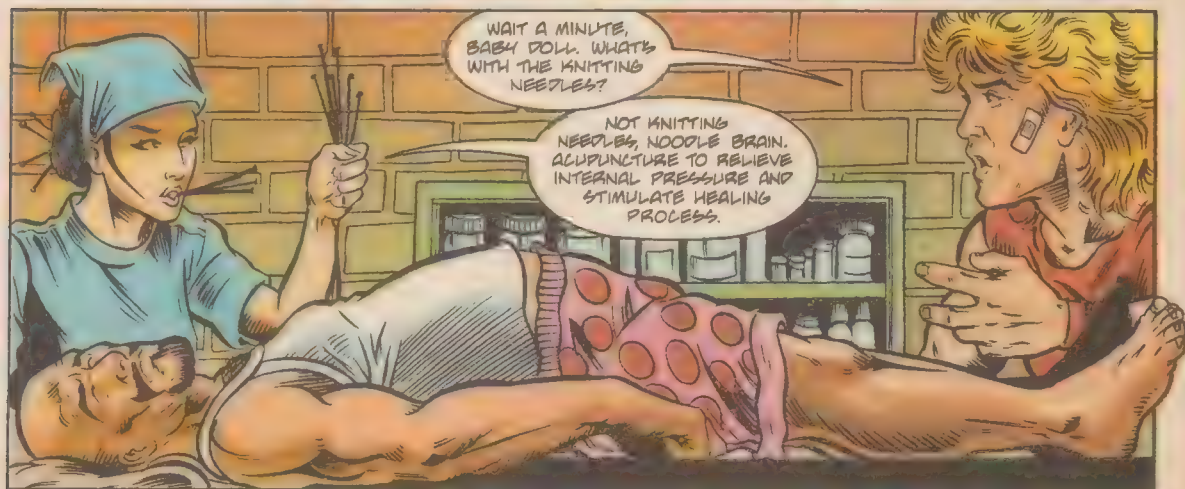




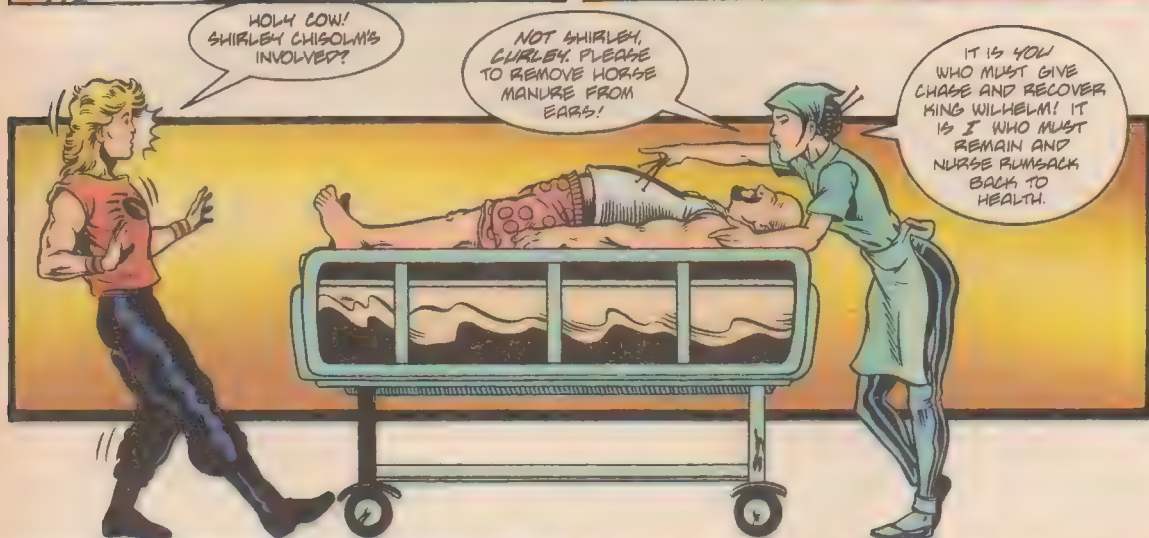
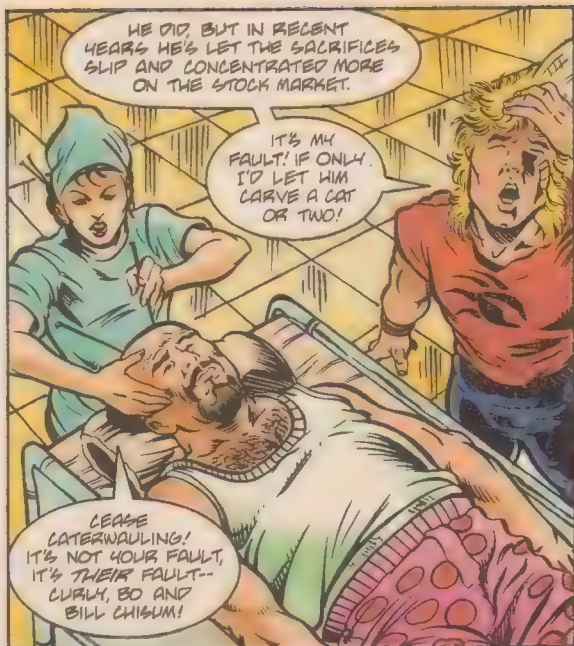




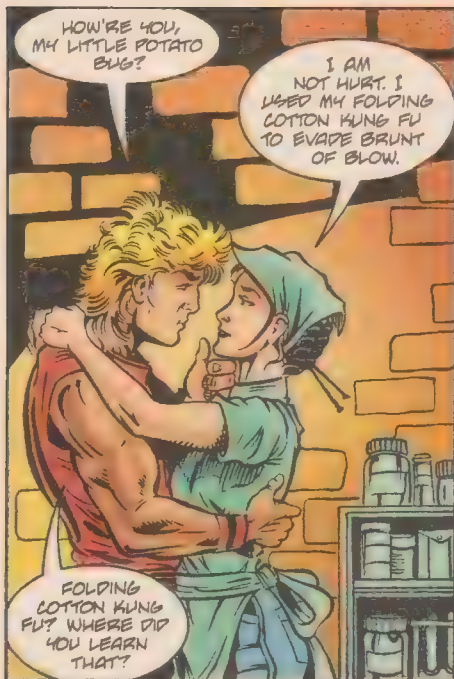




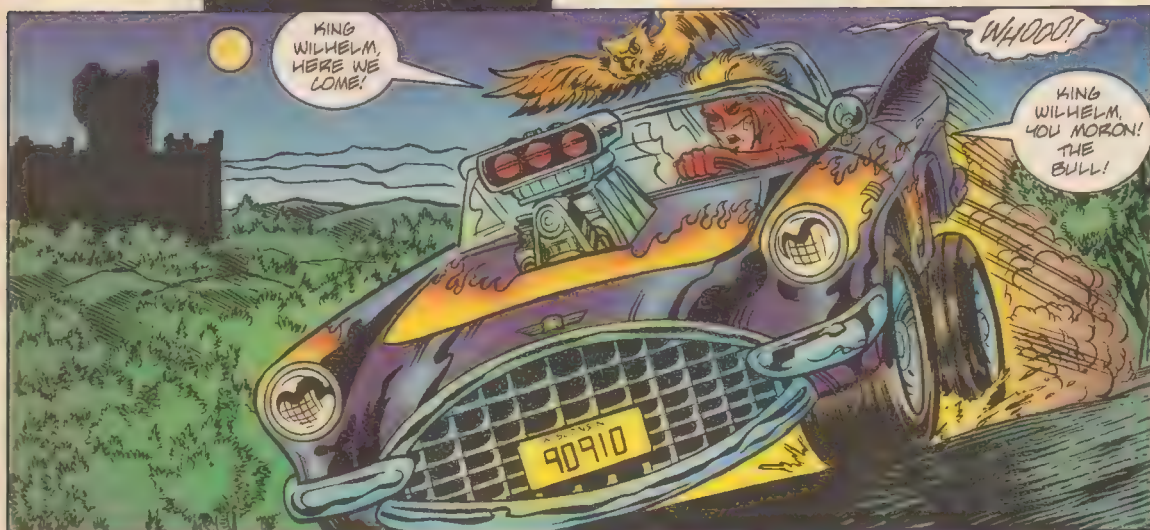




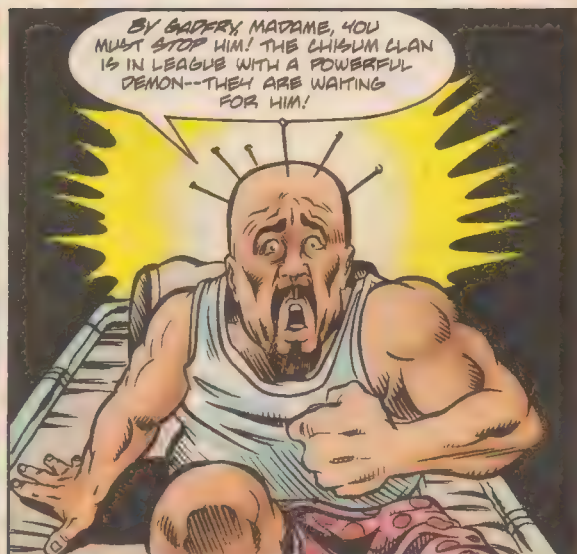
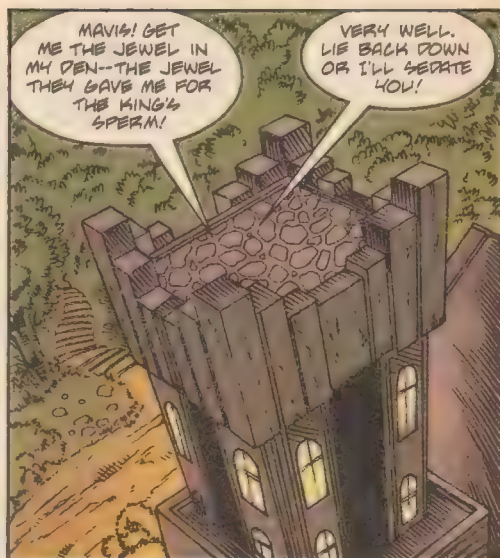
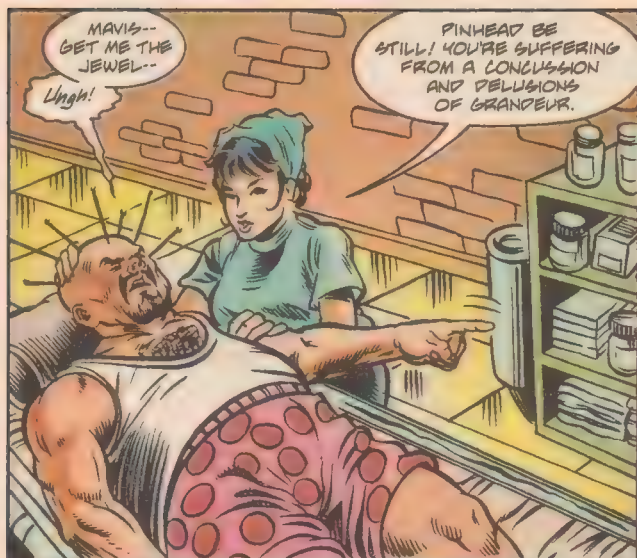












continued next month...



# Dear LARRY,:

C/O FIRST COMICS  
435 N. LASALLE  
CHICAGO IL  
60610

Yo Larry,

Castlemagnes all around for another awesome issue of the *Badger*! Although the art hasn't been to my satisfaction lately, I really like it this issue, especially Gary Chaloner's rendition of the Wombat. You could really believe you were looking at an animal lovin' kick-stompin' aborigine.

I did find one error though, Bob: on page 9 you referred the reader to *Badger* #18. However, the incident in question actually occurred in #15, although #18 was the first appearance of Spud Grogan, the other villainous evil-doer featured this issue.

Anyone know where I can get a *Badger* t-shirt?

Ben Robinson  
3 Brookside Lane  
Bolton, CT 06043

You can order *Badger* t-shirts from Graphitti Designs, Ben. And you're right about the incorrect reference. At least, I think you are.

Dear Larry,

I like *Badger* a lot, but the stories recently have been about this wild-and crazy guy and his wacky friends: Lamont the Buffalo (a buffalo?! Jeez-oh-Petel!), and that stupid kangaroo and pig and so on. [Get rid of Lamont? Get rid of the *Badger's* li'l animal pals? Mmmmm. Better not let *Badger* hear about this. Hell, Mavis would be out of work.] Enough with this Noah's Ark, and the smart-ass dialogue that *Badger* spouts. [Oh no! Not the smart ass dialogue!] Can we go back to the days when insanity wasn't a laff-a-minute joke factory for the *Badger*. And before he acquired all these silly fantastical self-defense fighting

styles? [Wait a second. *Badger* always was a master of arcane, abstruse martial arts.]

Look the *Badger* is an insane Vietnam vet, abused as a child and shot at as an adult. He's got a fractured personality and a hair-trigger temper. So maybe we could bring a little politics and sex and religion and social criticism into this book and dump the Dr. Doolittle crap? [Possibly we could add a battle-wagon and some heavy armament, while we're at it?]

Remember, bring back Clonezone and I'm outta here.

Moiria Hartwell

Sorry I had to edit your letter, Moira, but some of your remarks on other books, don't really fit in here. But for your comments on *Badger*: This comic has gone in a number of different directions over the years. Sometimes it's too serious, and sometime too humorous. However an upcoming storyline may be more to your liking.

*Badger* #62 and #63 will feature a story, about death, honor, desecration, politics, and more. It's a deadly serious two-part story that should more than live up to your expectations. As will *Badger* Bedlam, our 1990 *Badger* special due out later this year.

No animals in either story, we guarantee. But try to enjoy the whole milieu. Remember, *Badger* is anything but a conventional comic book.

Yo Larry,

Hey, Dudes, just thought I'd drop this short *Badger*-gram to make a few comments. First, when I saw that Wombat was going to be back, I couldn't wait for my next issue to

arrive. Just one question, what happened to him? As I recall he was a rather muscular dude. In #58 he looked like he was on a hunger strike. He bore an uncanny resemblance to the aborigine in the *X-men*.

Also, what's the deal with the musical artist bit? Every other issue you're switching artists. If you want my vote bring back *Spyder* full time. Give him a life-time contract. The stories are good even when the art isn't.

Being from Wisconsin and a martial artist myself, I really appreciate the *Badger*. Especially being overseas in the Air Force. It is like a taste of back home. This is also the reason I wish you'd do more stories like you used to. What happened to *Badger* going out and drinking in Mad City? The introduction says he travels the highways and byways, but lately he seems to limit his travels to other dimensions or large continents.

Why hasn't he gone to the snowmobile derby on Eagle River (my home town) or the lumberjack festival in Hayward (a good place for Paul Bunyan to make an appearance, hint, hint)? He could just go snowmobiling, sometime, too. I can't believe he's from Wisconsin and doesn't go snowmobiling.

I hope you consider some of the things I mentioned. *Badger* has been and remains my favorite comic. Keep up the good work.

P.S. Does anyone know where I can get a copy of *Badger* #3. It's the only one I'm missing.

Scott Baseler  
PSC Box 9686  
APO, NY 09012

*The musical artists have ended*



***“Look, the Badger is an insane Vietnam vet, abused as a child and shot at as an adult. He's got a fractured personality and a hair-trigger temper. So maybe we could bring a little politics and sex and religion and social criticism into this book and dump the Dr. Doolittle crap?”***

with Steve Butler coming on this issue. He's giving us the most sensational Badger, ever. But don't fear, Spyder will be back with a special fill-in issue in the next few months.

Badger takes to the highways and byways of Wisconsin this year's special: Badger Bedlam. But the results may not be what you suspect.

By the way, as I explained last issue, Wombat has been made to look more like a true aborigine, by command of the Baron himself.

Dear Larry,

You wanted some mail, so here goes somethin' a little better than nothin'.

I've been reading *Badger* for a little over a year now, but I also got a hold of all the back issues after #10. (I also seem to remember a statement that reprints of early issues were coming out in the summer of '89, but I guess that it must have been a hallucination on my part — either that, or you guys are waaaaay behind schedule.)

I just finished reading all of my issues again, and here are some of my bitchin' observations put on paper for all to read and ponder. First and foremost, Reinhold was the best artist that *Badger* ever had. Every panel shone with loving care — grab him back from Marvel or DC or wherever the hell he is and get him back on *Badger*.

Some say Butler is better, but judging by issue #17, Reinhold still beats him by a long shot. All of the Baron/Reinhold issues were good. *Badger* was in classic form with damn good writing and fantastic art. Those were the good old days, sorry to say.

Then there were some fill-in

issues and early Lim work. Baron's writing was pretty good, and the art was okay. Then, starting with #40, Lim became the regular artist. All of the Baron/Lim issues are great, with the exception of two: issues #49 and 50 sucked! I was not amused, to say the least. Issue 50 was a big waste.

Anyway, Baron and Lim were generally a great team. Lim was drawing when I got my first *Badger*, and I wish that he was still drawing 'em when I buy 'em now. He ranks just below Reinhold (his later issues anyway — his early issues in the 30s were just okay).

To get on with this fascinating letter, #51 was next. Salick and Lim did a great job, and #51 is still one of my favorite issues. Then the Salick/Vigil team took over (YAWN). Those issues were really average, and I believe that *Badger* has stayed on the same level ever since.

The truth hurts, but please listen anyway. *Badger* has only barely amused/entertained me for these last seven or so issues. I just read #58, and it was the worst of the bunch! Out of the last seven issues I like #57 the best, but that issue in no way compares with the Baron/Reinhold or later Baron/Lim issues.

Also, it seems that each time I pick up *Badger* or *Nexus*, there's a new damn artist doing this month's issue. I am definitely looking forward to the Pander Brothers, but after #59 please settle on a permanent artist — and please make it a good one. Don't let it be Spyder. He was decent in the *Badger Goes Berserk*, and he did an average job on issues #55-57, but he wasn't good enough.

Oh, and regarding the mini-series, I give it a "B" or "B-". It was

kind of interesting.

Cody Sandifer  
3A Klondike Ct.  
Chico, CA 95926

Cody, I'm sure Steve Butler is going to make you a happy man. Also, take a look at Hugh Haynes as the regular artist on *Nexus*. These two guys are great!

As for the reprint series, well... it ain't going to happen. Due to various problems, we don't want to get involved with, *Badger* reprints are highly, highly unlikely. So, just collect those back issues, kiddies.

Baron/Butler are going to bring this comic to new heights, buddy. Stick around.

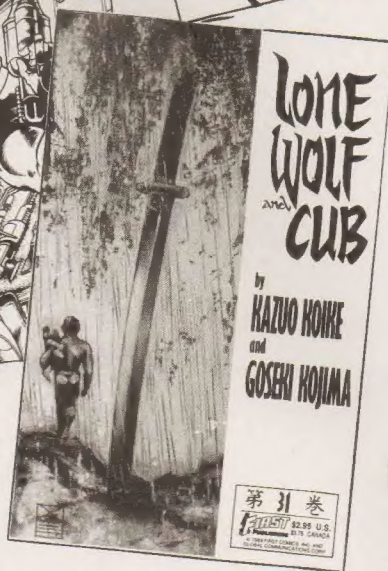
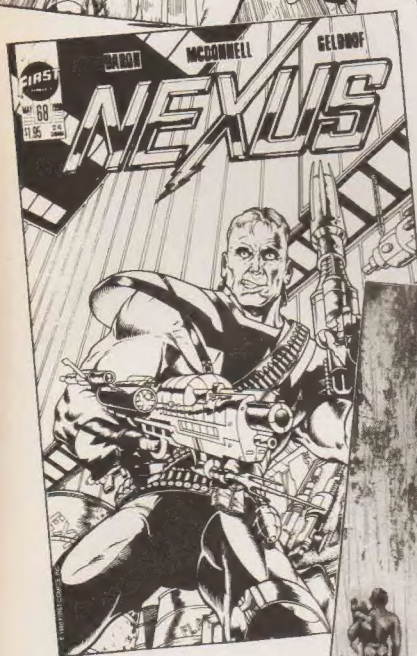
—Bob Garcia



**NEXT ISSUE:** Badger, Mavis, Ham, and Ratfinque(?) go up against the double threat of the Chisums and the demon, Motorhead. Part two of two. By Mike Baron, Steve Butler and Randy Clark.



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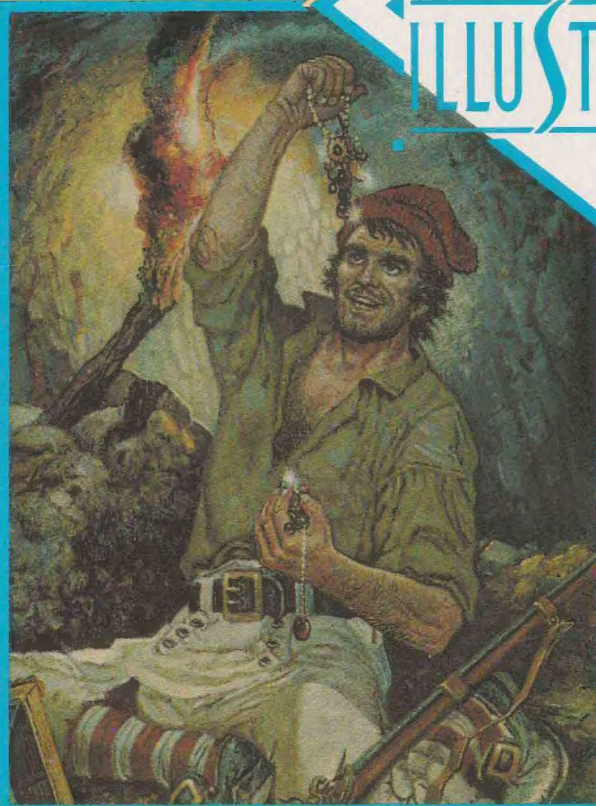
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